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(71) Applicant and

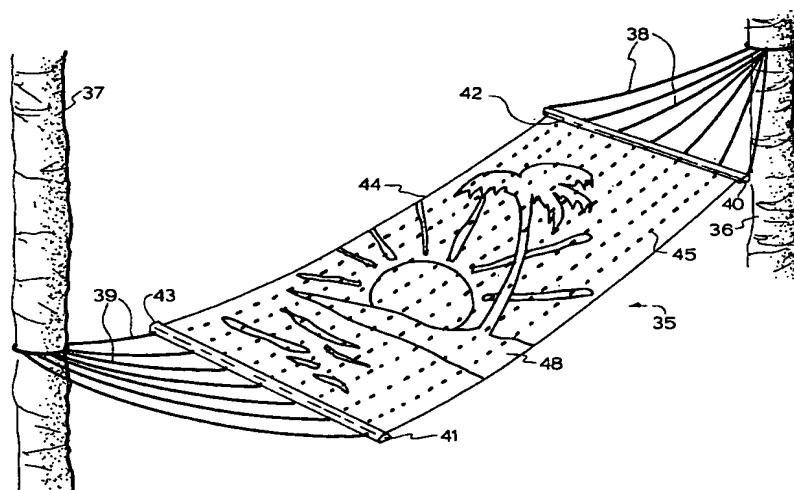
(72) Inventor: LYONS, Beaumont, Gregory [AU/AU]; 3/97 Jigsaw Street, Sumner Park, Queensland 4074 (AU).

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(54) Title: IMPROVED HAMMOCK AND SPREADING ROD



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(57) Abstract: A fabric is provided for use in outdoor furniture and formed from synthetic material with a stretch characteristic of 5% to 50%. The fabric 10 may have differential stretch characteristics in a first direction (16, 18) and greater stretch characteristics in a second direction (25, 26) substantially perpendicular to the first direction. The fabric is preferably warp knitted and used in the manufacture of a hammock or hammock chair. A hammock may have a lesser stretch characteristic along its length and a greater stretch characteristic transverse and preferably includes a plurality of ventilation apertures (45). Printed indicia (48) may be printed on the surface of the fabric when used in a hammock or hammock chair and may indicate ownership, club loyalties, personalised visual signs or other special interests. The invention extends to a flexible spreading rod (55, 56) for use in a hammock (50). The spreading rod is preferably located in a sleeve (76) at either end of the hammock or may be supported directly by a hammock stand (51).